



Northwest Illinois
Forestry Association
Woodland Owners
Sharing Ideas on
Forest Productivity

Northwest Illinois Forestry Association

Minutes of January 24, 2017

President Tom Arnold called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in the meeting room of the Stockton Public Library.

Officers and Directors present for the business meeting were: Tom Arnold, Greg Hopton, Jim Breed, Keith Arnold, Lee Freedlund, Dave Harrison, Kevin Cahill, and Jerry Misek.

President Arnold called for any additions or corrections for the December 5, 2016 meeting.

Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Dave Harrison moved to approve the minutes. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer, Dick Pouzar, was not present and did not send a copy of the Treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

President Arnold started working on the 2017 meeting and tour agenda.

The first item was the program for the February 14th meeting. We had talked about a session about real estate taxes and proposed a panel discussion on the topic. However, with the past interest about the subject and the time available, it was decided to move this panel to the Annual Dinner meeting and just have a business meeting on February 14th.

Moving to the Annual Dinner Meeting, the panel on real estate taxes should include a Forester, a Supervisor of Assessments, a tax person, and someone knowledgeable on easements and how they affect taxes. Jeff Harris volunteered to be the Forester, Tom Walsh could be the Supervisor of Assessments, Tom Sleeter could be the tax person and someone from the Jo Daviess Conservation District could talk on easements. The program should also have a moderator and be limited to a 45 minute discussion. A couple of scenarios will be developed at the February meeting.

Due to other programs, the Annual Dinner Meeting is planned for April 4th. President Arnold asked Ralph Eads to reserve the Mt. Carroll Farm Bureau Hall and contact the 4H group to serve the meal. Ralph agreed to make the arrangements.

March 11 is the Tri-State Forestry Conference at Sinsinawa, Wisconsin.

March 25 at 1:00 pm will be a tour of Tom Arnold's forest Oak regeneration from a clear cut. Also seen in the area will be a tree planting following a clear cut on the former Russell Roberts forest and broadcast seeding of hardwoods on an IDNR site. Consulting Forester, Kevin Oetken, and IDNR Wildlife Biologist, Doug Dufford, will lead the tours.

May 13th will feature a tour of Alan Kaplan's tree plantings. Three types of tree plantings will be observed: RPM, seedlings, and direct seeding as well as wildlife plantings. Dave Harrison will make the tour arrangements.

May 18 through the 20th will have University of Illinois Forester, Chris Evans, visiting the area. Jay Solomon will set up a luncheon meeting with Chris Evans to discuss forestry concerns in our area.

June 3rd at 9:30 am will be a tour of Mike Mulvain's log to finish business near Durand. Mr. Mulvain recently added a saw capable of 5 foot cutting widths.

July 15th will be a tour of the Aldo Leopold Foundation land and buildings near Baraboo, Wisconsin. A building is available for participants to bring their lunch and dine before the tour starting at 1:00 pm.

August 26 is the Walnut Council field day at the Spoon River State Forest near Galesburg. IDNR Forester, Steve Felt, will be main tour guide.

September 16th will have IDNR Forester, Jeff Harris, leading a tree identification tour at the Palisades State Park near Savanna. The tour will start at 9:00 am at the north entrance to the Park.

October will feature two chain saw safety sessions. One will be for beginners and the other will be an advanced class. Jim Breed and Tom Arnold will provide the forests for felling the trees.

November and December will be business meetings.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Harrison handed out sheets that provided information about a new Forestry cost sharing Program. The Program is titled Regional Conservation Partnership Program and has earmarked funds for 37 Illinois Counties. All 6 counties of the NIFA are included in the program. Eligible practices are: Forest Stand Improvement, Brush Management, Herbaceous Weed Control, Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, Tree/Shrub Establishment, and Prescribed Burning. Sign up for the program at the county Natural Resources Conservation Service Office.

Secretary, Jerry Misek, has received the annual not for profit registration form from the Illinois Secretary of State. The form needs to be filed annually and has a \$10.00 filing fee. Secretary Misek asked for a motion to approve this expenditure. Ralph Eads moved to pay the fee. Greg Hopton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President Arnold discussed correspondence he received from Tom Sleeter. Mr. Sleeter would like NIFA to do a membership drive to get more forest management practiced in

our area. He said that he would help with developing the drive. President Arnold will follow up with Mr. Sleeter.

At the December meeting, Treasurer, Dick Pouzar, suggested changing the By Laws to remove the office of Editor and replace it with the Office of Communications. There was not a quorum of Officers and Directors present at that meeting, so no action was taken. There is a quorum at this meeting. Kevin Cahill moved to change the By Laws by removing the office of Editor and replacing it with the Office of Communications. Ralph Eads seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Then Dave Harrison moved to elect Dick Pouzar to the Office of Communications. Kevin Cahill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

President Arnold called for any more business. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. Lee Freedlund moved to adjourn. Dave Harrison seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerry Misek

NIFA Secretary